



### What Makes Your Classroom Unique?

Provide students with a copy of the Letter Template available on the next page. Review the parts of a letter including the date, greeting, letter body, closing, and signature.

- **Ask:** What are some closing statements that might be appropriate for a friendly letter? *Answers will vary but may include “Sincerely,” “Yours truly,” “All the best,” “Love,” etc.*

Inform students that there are many features that make being part of a class special. This may include the decorations and features that allow people to enjoy certain activities. Features such as a reading corner, technology, or unique art can also make a place unique.

- **Ask:** What do you enjoy about being part of this class? What do you enjoy about the community in our school?

On the back of their worksheet, have students brainstorm a list of features that make their classmates, classrooms, or school unique. You may choose to divide students into pairs to brainstorm together.

Instruct students to choose at least one feature from their list to highlight in a letter to a friend or family member who lives far away. If students do not know anyone who lives outside the state, have students imagine that they are writing to a pen pal. In their letters, students should share how the features they chose impact the way their classroom and classmates feel.

When students are finished writing their letters, have them conduct a self-assessment and edit their letters as needed. Remind students to check for capitalization at the beginning of sentences and proper nouns; check their spelling, grammar, and punctuation; and ensure that they have used complete sentences. You may choose to have students use the acronym “CUPS” (capitalization, understanding, punctuation, and spelling) to guide their self-assessment.

When they are finished editing, divide the class into pairs. Have students read their partner’s letter and ask clarifying questions.

#### Approx. Time



- 30 minutes

#### Learning Target



- Students will use a cross-curricular learning lens to engage with geography through English language arts by writing a letter.

#### Big Questions



- What do you enjoy about your classroom?
- What do you enjoy about the people in your classroom?

#### Lesson Source



- *Exploring Near and Far*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**Greetings Line**

**Date Line**

**Letter Body**

Date:

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Sincerely,

(Your name) \_\_\_\_\_

**Closing Line**

**Signature Line**